

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASS SPECIFICATION

Class Title: Veterans' Home Nurse

Class Code: 51033

A. Purpose:

Provides nursing care to residents and patients at the South Dakota State Veterans' Home to ensure effective nursing care is administered to meet the needs of the residents.

B. Distinguishing Feature:

The Veterans' Home Nurse provides direct nursing care to the residents of the nursing care unit and the domiciliary unit sections and directs the activities of the nursing care staff.

The Quality Assurance Nurse directs comprehensive nursing, preventive, and therapeutic care to patients in the SD State Veterans' Home complex as well as performing nursing duties, quality assurance reviews, and training of nursing care staff.

The Director of Nursing has supervisory and administrative responsibility for nursing services at the SD State Veterans' Home.

C. Functions:

(These are examples only; any one position may not include all of the listed examples nor do the listed examples include all functions which may be found in positions of this class.)

1. Directs staff and activities on an assigned shift to provide nursing services.
 - a. Monitors staff compliance with nursing policies and procedures.
 - b. Addresses nursing infractions.
 - c. Orientates new staff.
 - d. Provides supervisor with feedback regarding staff performance.
2. Maintains patient records and ensures that shift activities are properly documented to provide accurate records of patient condition and behavior for treatment teams and physicians.
3. Conducts change of shift meetings with other supervisors and staff to provide for continuity of patient care.
 - a. Relates changes in treatment plans.
 - b. Discusses patient behavior.
 - c. Reviews what happened during significant events with patients.
4. Administers medications and treatments as prescribed by a physician to ensure patients' medical needs are addressed and side effects from medications and treatments are documented.
 - a. Closely monitors patients and their response to medications and treatments.
 - b. Relays data to the physician.
 - c. Explains prescribed medications and treatments to patients and staff.
5. Develops and updates written nursing assessments for patients and incorporates nursing interventions into the total treatment plan to provide goal-oriented care and treatment.
6. Performs other work as assigned.

D. Reporting Relationships:

Reports to the Director of Nursing and provides work direction to Licensed Practical Nurses, Senior Nurse Aides, and Nurse Aides.

E. Challenges and Problems:

Challenged to ensure that all activity on the shift is implemented according to accepted nursing practices and institutional policy. This is difficult because of the number of staff and patients involved and because coordinating activities for consistency of care between shifts must be scheduled in addition to routine care activities.

Typical problems include finding the time to devote to training of new staff, determining if a medical problem needs the immediate attention of a physician, dealing with behavior problems of patients, and providing continuity of care for patients between shifts.

F. Decision-making Authority:

Decisions include determining appropriate nursing intervention needed to meet physical and emotional needs of patients, if a physician should be notified immediately, how to deal with patient behavioral problems, and if care given by nurse aides is acceptable.

Decisions referred to a superior include the need for major surgery or hospitalization of patients, prescribing medications, the need for major disciplinary actions, and standards for institutional care.

G. Contact with Others:

Daily contact with patients to evaluate and give medical treatment; and frequent contact with physicians, treatment team members, and patients' families to provide information about the patients and to receive treatment orders.

H. Working Conditions:

Works in a nursing care and domiciliary unit. There is the risk of assault by an aggressive or intoxicated resident and the exposure to contagious diseases. Must be able to lift patients to and from tubs, into wheelchairs, and onto stretchers.

I. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Knowledge of:

- professional nursing theory and practices;
- recent developments in the field of professional nursing applicable to the area of assignment;
- clinical procedures.

Ability to:

- keep records and charts;
- follow oral and written instructions;
- operate a variety of medical equipment;
- make reports on observations;
- apply general nursing techniques and practices;
- maintain a helpful and sympathetic attitude toward patients;
- communicate information clearly and concisely;

- deal effectively with patients and staff.

J. Licensure and Certification

Must be licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the state of South Dakota.